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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 7 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 May 1996, addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 6 May 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 11 April 1996 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot Representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/50/934-S/1996/283).

Like all previous similar allegations by the Greek Cypriot administration, those contained in the said letter are totally baseless and, hence, are rejected in toto. In response to these much repeated allegations of the Greek Cypriot side, I wish to reiterate, once more, that flights within the airspace of Northern Cyprus are with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, over which the Greek Cypriot usurpers of the seat of government have no jurisdiction or right of say. Since those allegations have already been refuted in my successive previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 5 December 1995 (A/50/808-S/1995/1016), I need not go into them in further detail. Suffice to say that charges such as those contained in the said letter are designed purely for propaganda purposes and in order to divert attention from the continuing militarization campaign in southern Cyprus.

Indeed, hardly a day passes without reports of new additions being made to the Greek Cypriot military arsenal. For instance, the Greek Cypriot press of 19 April 1996 has reported that, within the context of the "military technical cooperation" agreement signed between the Russian Federation and the Greek Cypriot administration on 22 March 1996, the latter will be purchasing 27 T-80U tanks, 14 T-80K tanks and some other military equipment from the Russian Federation, involving a spending of $200 million. The said agreement also involves the procurement by the Greek Cypriot side of a further number of T-80 tanks, 50 BMP-3 armoured personnel carriers and S-300 missile systems, as well as the training of Greek Cypriot military personnel, who will operate the said weapons systems. Joint ventures for the establishment of weapons production facilities in southern Cyprus are also said to be among the provisions of the agreement, and this was confirmed by the Russian Ambassador in Nicosia, Mr. Boris Zenkov, after a meeting he had with the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Clerides, on 2 May 1996.

In the meantime, Mr. Cassoulides, the official spokesman of the Greek Cypriot administration, has confirmed that in the context of the so-called "joint defence doctrine" the construction in south Cyprus of an air force base for Greece is effectively under way, and that the existing Paphos airport has already been closed to civilian air traffic for this purpose.

In view of the foregoing, it must be evident that the Greek Cypriot side is engaged in an effort to create, through unfounded propaganda and misrepresentation of facts, a smokescreen for its militarization campaign against the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey, and has lost all interest in negotiations aimed at an overall settlement of the Cyprus question. I trust

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that the international community will impress upon the Greek Cypriot side that this adversarial posture is fraught with danger and that the Cyprus question can only be settled through peaceful dialogue.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUG
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus